BOOK 80 PAGE 318 STATE MS - DESOTO CO.

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BK 80 PG 318 --W.E. DAVIS OH, CLK.

PREPARED BY AND RETURN TO: JEFFREY P. THOFNER, ESQUIRE P. O. BOX 31601 TAMPA, FLORIDA 33631-3601 (813) 871-4506

POWER OF ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, First Union National Bank ("First Union") under and pursuant to that certain Indenture dated as of December 10, 1998 between Mid-State Trust VII, as Issuer, and First Union National Bank, as Indenture Trustee; and

WHEREAS, First Union desires to grant a power of attorney to Mid-State Homes, Inc. and Jim Walter Homes, Inc., upon the terms and conditions set forth herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, First Union, as Indenture Trustee, hereby constitutes and appoints Mid-State Homes, Inc. (the "Servicer" under the said Indenture), and/or Jim Walter Homes, Inc. (the "Sub-Servicer" under the said Indenture), both Servicer and Sub-Servicer located at 1500 North Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa, Florida 33607, its true and lawful attorney in fact and agent, to execute, acknowledge, verify, swear to, deliver, record, and file, in the name, place, and stead of First Union as Indenture Trustee, all instruments, documents and certificates which may from time to time be required in connection with the Servicing Agreement, dated as of December 10, 1998, among the Servicer, Mid-State Trust VII ("Mid-State"), and First Union National Bank, as Indenture Trustee (the "Servicing Agreement"), or the Sub-Servicing Agreement between the Servicer and the Sub-Servicer, including without limitation, to execute any documents required to be executed or recorded by First Union, as Indenture Trustee under the Indenture, pursuant to Section 2.01 of the Servicing Agreement or Section 3.13 of the Indenture. By acceptance of this Power of Attorney, Servicer and Sub-Servicer represent that they have full power and authority to act as attorney-in-fact under this Power of Attorney.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, First Union, Indenture Trustee, may terminate this Power of Attorney at any time by recording in the office where this Power of Attorney is recorded an instrument signed by First Union, Indenture Trustee, which terminates this Power of Attorney.

Corporate Seal)

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Vithess: Jeffrey P. Thofner

Witness: Vivian Hutcheson

FIRST UNION NATIONAL BANK, as Indenture Trustee.

By:

Name:

Robert Ashbaugh

Title: Vice President

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 15th day of January, 1999, by Robert Ashbaugh, Vice President of First Union National Bank, a national banking association, on behalf of the association, as Indenture Trustee, under an Indenture dated as of December 10, 1998 between Mid-State Trust VII and First Union National Bank, and under a Servicing Agreement dated as of December 10, 1998, among Mid-State Trust VII and Mid-State Homes, Inc., and First Union National Bank, as Indenture Trustee, party to the within and foregoing instruments, known to me personally to be such and the person who executed the foregoing instrument on behalf of such association and did not take an oath.

Notary Public: Carol Harmon

My Commission Expires: 8/19/2002

CAROL HARMON
MY COMMISSION # CC 768654
EXPIRES: 08/19/2002
800-3-NOTARY Fla Notary Services & Bonding Co